Secret. IV.37—100,000—22-5-48.

E4 P.H. (1948) Department.

Ms SERIES.

G.O. No. 594

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Dated 27-2-48.

[Despatch Abstract.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL QUESTION - Subsidised rural dispensaries - Policy of Government - Papers Recorded.

Subsidized Medical Dispensaries.

150 Question - SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state:--

(a) what the policy of the Government is in regard ~~in~~ to subsidized medical dispensaries;

(b) what the number of subsidized dispensaries is (district-war) both allopathic and indigenous;

(c) whether there is any proposal to increase the number of subsidized dispensaries;

(d) whether there is dearth of medical personnel to take advantage of the system;

(e) whether the Government have considered any proposal to make the system attractive as a measure for providing rural medical relief and, if so, what the proposal is; and

(f) whether the Government have at any time reviewed the whole system to rectify defects noticed in its working?

THE HON. SRI A.B. SHETTY:--"(a) In 1924, a scheme for the opening of rural dispensaries subsidized by Government was inaugurated with a view to encourage medical men to settle in rural areas and to bring qualified medical relief within easy reach of the rural population. The liability of Government is restricted to the payment of subsidy ~~of~~ to the rural medical practitioner and the midwife. The cost of medicines and contingencies is met by the local bodies concerned.

"(b) A statement is placed on the table.

"(c) Every year local boards come up to Government for sanction ~~o~~ for opeing new dispensaries and sanction is usually accorded.

"(d) Yes.

"(e) The Government have recently increased the subsidies payable to rural medical practitioners and midwives employed in rural dispensaries. They hope that this will make the service sufficiently attractive.

"(f) The main principles of the scheme have not undergone revision but whenever defects in ~~o~~ working of the scheme have been pointed out, Government have set them right by the issue of special orders."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO:--"What are the amounts now being given to rural dispensaries?"

THE HON. SRI A.B. SHETTY: --"For licentiates and practitioners of Indian medicine, it has been enhanced from Rs. 500 to Rs. 600, for medical graduates, from Rs. 600 to Rs.720 for midwives, it has been enhanced from Rs. 300 to Rs. 360."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO:--" Do not the Government consider the amounts to be inadequate taking into consideration theprevailing prices?"

THE HON. SRI A.B. SHETTY: --" The revision was made only in May 1947, Sir,"

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SRI B. BHIMA RAO: --"Have not the Government considered it expedient to increase it stillfurther -doubling it?"

THE HON. SRI A.B. SHETTY: --" There was a proposal to provincialize rural dispensaries with a view to improving the efficiency of these institutions. If that question is taken up again, he enhancement of the subsidies also will be considered. But that is a matter of finance."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: ---In the list placed on the table of the House, information is given up to 31st December 1945. Cannot the Government give information up to December 1946? Or is it a mistake in typing?"

THE HON. SRI A.B. SHETTY: --"I shall enquire into thematter."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO:--"May I know, Sir, whether the Government are satisfied that the local bodies are providing the rural dispensaries with the necessary medicines?"

THE HON. SRI A.B. SHETTY:--" The amount allotted for medicines also has been enhanced from Rs. 360 to Rs. 720, and in addition contingencies worth Rs. 140 are also given. Over and above this, for special reasons local bodies can give additional subsidy. If the dispensary is remote from the population centre or in an unhealthy locality, the local bodies are permitted to give additional subsidy."

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NOTE FILE.

Please see the lie over order on page 9 above. A copy of the printed proceedings of the question is put up at page 29 c.f. The supplementary questions asked for in that connection do not call for any further action. The papers may therefore now be recorded.

G.O.Ms, No. 597 Public Health Dated 27.2.48.

Recorded.

Subject;

Legislative Council question - subsidised rural dispensaries - policy of Government - Papers Recorded.

27.2.48

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